

Pollution kills pines, ospreys

Dying pine trees near the aluminum plant at Columbia Falls, decaying teeth of deer feeding in that area and decreasing numbers of ospreys in the Flathead are serious indications immediate action must be taken to combat air pollutants according to Phil Tourangeau of the University of Montana botany department.

Speaking to the regular meeting of the Environmental Forum here Thursday night, Tourangeau said humans are subjected to the same pollutants which are destroying forests, birds and game.

Using slides to illustrate his lecture, he stressed that there are definite limits to the amount of polluting agents the air can hold and that areas in Montana are rapidly approaching that limit.

The ospreys in the Flathead area are disappearing so rapidly, he said, they are expected

to be completely gone in seven or eight years.

Tourangeau also stated the spraying of herbicides and insecticides is dangerous because often only about one-tenth of the chemical reaches the area for which it was intended and the rest drifts into the atmosphere polluting the air and water.

The forum is presented bi-weekly by the Skyline Sportsmen's Association and is open to the public.